

SPRING 2011

# MTA PROJECT UPDATE

## KIRK DIVISION MODERNIZATION

### Next MTA Project Community Meeting Set For Thursday, May 5th

Plans are set for the next community meeting designed to provide the latest information on the Kirk Division Bus Facility modernization project. The meeting will be held from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Cecil Elementary School, 2000 Cecil Avenue. Please plan to attend to obtain information and share your questions and comments with project staff. We look forward to seeing you!

### Newly Formed Project Focus Group

As part of the Maryland Transit Administration's (MTA) commitment to partnering with the community, the MTA has developed a Project Focus Group to provide input to the MTA on the design of the Kirk Division Bus Facility. A number of applications for participation in the group were submitted last summer, and the MTA coordinated a diverse group which represents key project stakeholders including residents, business, and community leaders. The group, which will also serve as a liaison between the MTA and the community by sharing important project updates, held their first meeting in February 2011.

The Project Focus Group will provide input on the following:

- Design development issues including fencing, landscaping, building design, signage and overall aesthetics.
- Activities and progress on the construction phase of the project.

The Project Focus Group will work with MTA staff who will provide technical information and design details, as well as updates on the project's schedule and other activities related to the project. The Project Focus Group meeting notes will be available on the MTA website at [www.mta.maryland.gov/projects](http://www.mta.maryland.gov/projects).

### Meet the Focus Group

**Regina Boyce**

Baltimore City Council President's Office

**Sandra Coles**

President, Greater Greenmount Association

**Yvonne Greene**

Member, Greater Greenmount Association

**Aurelia Griffin**

Member, Midway and Greater Greenmount Association

**Alan Klug**

President, 25th Street Business Owners' Association

**William Palmer**

Member, Coldstream Homestead Montebello Community Association

**Glenn C. Robinson**

Project Director, Baltimore Region Environmental Justice and Transportation Project

**Patricia Tracey**

Community Coordinator, JHU Center in Urban Environmental Health

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## Design Concepts To Be Presented

The MTA is committed to building an aesthetically pleasing, modern facility that will enhance the community and is working diligently on the conceptual designs for the Kirk Division Bus Facility Modernization Project. Architectural concepts were presented to Focus Group members in February 2011 for discussion and feedback. Focus Group members were charged with sharing this information with residents and other key stakeholders in advance of the next community meeting scheduled for May.

The new design will move MTA operations inside the buildings to minimize the impact on the community and present a more visually pleasing presence. The MTA proposed design is targeted at reducing the visual size of the buildings. The proposed material for the building exterior is predominately brick in keeping with the architectural character of the neighborhood. The masonry walls would utilize an application of patterned brick sections, including vertical elements to provide a decorative element. These vertical elements also serve to visually reduce the overall size of the buildings. Specific rooflines are proposed to “lower” the visual height of the buildings.

*The new design will move MTA operations inside the buildings to minimize the impact on the community and present a more visually pleasing presence.*

After extensive exploration of both the layout of the building elements on the site and careful consideration of the vertical elements, an architectural concept for both of the buildings has been established and will be presented to the community for input. Again, by using a design

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*Proposed Transportation building looking south from Kirk Ave on the north side of the site by Bonaparte (Alley).*

### The goals of the proposed design include:

- Accommodating the functional needs of the Kirk Division Bus Facility
- Better incorporation of the Kirk Division Bus Facility façade/ appearance into the surrounding community.

### Details include:

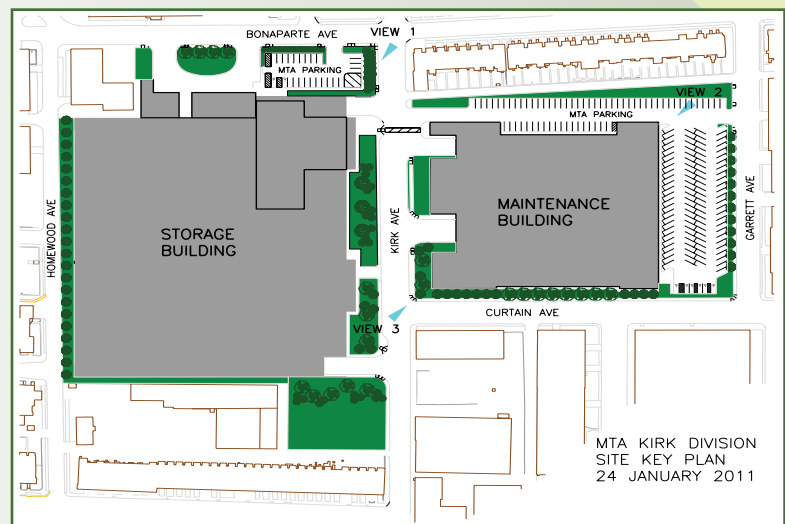
- Bus staging within the Transportation/Storage Building; minimizing the impact on the community.
- Bus parking, start-up, and route initiation as well as fueling, washing, and cleaning operations will take place within the Transportation/Storage building.
- Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems will be placed within the building to ensure an aesthetically pleasing sightline from the adjacent properties.
- MTA employee parking lot to minimize the impact on residential parking.
- Landscaping elements to help beautify the new facility and complement the surrounding community.



## Design Concepts *Continued*

that utilizes masonry walls that have patterned brick segments, variation in materials for the buildings, use of pilasters (vertical features along the building faces), and other architectural treatments, the MTA is making every effort to ensure that the project's visual presentation would be consistent with the surrounding neighborhoods.

The community will have an opportunity to review the concepts at next month's Community Meeting. Our current design schedule is to have the project ready for advertisement in the Winter of this year. Please note that while the design phase is funded, MTA is still in the process of securing the funds necessary for the construction phase of the project.



*An aerial view of the Kirk Division Bus Facility and surrounding neighborhoods.*

## MTA Community Participation

The MTA is committed to providing you with the most up-to-date project information and being available in the community to address your questions and concerns about the project. As a result, we have participated in the following community events over the past year:

**March 24, 2010**

MTA Project Community Meeting

**May 15, 2010**

St. Ann's Health Fair

**June 8, 2010**

Greater Greenmount Community Association Inc. Meeting

**June 16, 2010**

25th Street Business Owners' Association Meeting

**July 8, 2010**

Coldstream Homestead Montebello Community Corporation Meeting

**August 3, 2010**

Greater Greenmount National Night Out

**September 29, 2010**

25th Street Business Owners' Association Meeting

*For more information, please contact Ms. Judy Bellamy, MTA Community Liaison, at 410-767-1757 or [jbellamy@mta.maryland.gov](mailto:jbellamy@mta.maryland.gov)*



*MTA presented information to the community at the Greater Greenmount "National Night Out" event.*



*Young people learn more about MTA bus operations at the Greater Greenmount Community Association, Inc. National Night Out event.*

## Hybrid Buses

The MTA has added Hybrid buses to its fleet. Hybrid buses rely on battery-powered electric motors at speeds up to 12 miles per hour, after which they transition to a combination of electric and diesel power. The buses operate on electric power approximately 90 percent of the time, and the batteries are recharged by the diesel engine and the braking process. By using less fuel than conventional diesel buses, the new buses emit less pollution and carbon, thereby reducing greenhouse emissions.



According to Governor Martin O'Malley, "hybrid buses are part of the future of sustainable transportation – we are committed to transitioning the

fleet to 100 percent hybrid which puts MTA at the forefront of transit agencies nationally."

## A Service Suggestion

A recent suggestion from a resident resulted in an additional stop being added to the No. 12 Line out of the Kirk Division Bus Facility. Riders were boarding the No. 12 at Homewood and North Avenue. This meant an extremely long walk for those who could more conveniently board the bus closer to the Kirk Division. Effective with the Winter Schedule Change, on February 6th, a stop was added at Kirk and Bartlett Avenues to make the service more convenient. We appreciate your suggestions and input to help us work to improve MTA services.

## Read All About it Online

In response to input from our neighbors in the area, MTA has established a project link for the Kirk Division Bus Facility Modernization Project on its web site: <http://mta.maryland.gov/projects/>. Updates and other information will be posted there as they become available.

## Meet Us At The Next Project Community Meeting

Thursday, May 5th from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Cecil Elementary School

2000 Cecil Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21218